आठवीं योजना के अंत तक उद्देश्यों के पूरा होने की संभावना है ।

इन दूर दराज एवं पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तरीय सेवा प्रदान करने हेतु डिजिटल टी ए एक्स परिक्षण प्रणालियों तथा उपग्रह भू-केन्द्रों की भी योजना बनाई जा रही है इसके लिए अभी वर्तमान शुल्क ढांचे में किसी विशेष परिवर्तन का पूर्वानुमान नहीं है ।

Service tax on telephones

914. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has decided to pass on the burden of service tax, levied under the budget on Telephone Com panies! Corporations to the consumers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for passing over the entire burden to consumers and what was the intention of Gov ernment as to source of recover of this tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The service Tax is recoverable from the subscribers of Telephone Connection as per Finance Act, 1994 and rules made there-under.

Discussions with the organisations interested ire investing in telecom network

915. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated discussions with representatives of 19 organisations who had taken interest in investing in telecom network;

(b) if so, what were the main points discussed;

(c) whether the suggestions made by the representatives have been con sidered so that telecom policy an nounced *by* Government is implemented immediately; and

(d) if BO, whether all the formalities in this regard have been finally settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): *(a)* and (b) A meeting with the industry representatives, to ascertain their views was held on 12th June, 1994.

(c) and (d) The views expressed were taken as a part of input for framing the guidelines for implementation of the Telecom Policy.

Telephone advisory committee (T.A.G.) for GOA

916. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not making Goa Telephone Advisory Committee ('T.A.C.) functional, despite orders from Director-General, Telecom that the term of 2 years of this T.A.C. will commence from 1st May, 1994;

(b) what are the reasons that Faci lities for which these members arc. .'ntitlerl have not yet been provided:

(c) whether in view of delay of 3 months for this Committee to func tion, the term of this Committee will be extended for 2 years from the date of its first meeting; and

(d) if so. by when the first meet ing is proposed to be held;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF' THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Telephone Advisory Committee for Goa constituted on 29.2.1994 could not become functional for want of acceptance letters from some of the Members nominated.

(b) Facilities have already, been provided to 10 Members and to the

remaining, they are in the process of being provided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d' First meeting is proposed to be held during the *1st* week of August, 1994.

Deterioration of telephone service in Goa due to substandard cables

SHRI JOHN F. FERNAN. DES; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trou-sards of telephones in Panaji Goa are out of older due to laying of substandard new cables in that exchange .

(b the length and value of cables whicl, have been found unusable;

(c) whehter any investigation is being conducted in this fraud to bring to book officials/contractors responsible for it; and

(d) by when till these cables are likelyto be replaced and restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAMI) (a) Sir. about 3000 telephones were affected due to cable breakdowns on account of cyclone on 5th June, 1994. Panaji was badly affected. The cable break downs were not due to substandard cables

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) All faults have since been cleored No cable is required to be replaced.

Postal Services in AndHra Pradesh

918. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh deliver the Registered Post Acknowledgement Due Slips very rarely;

(b) what are the reasons for poor quality of postal services in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps propsed to be taken to enhance postal services in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE: OF THE. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Quality of various postal scrvies being' rendered in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory. However, improvement in the service is an ongoing process. Attempts are always made not only to maintain efficiency in the postal services but to improve it.

Postal services in West Godaveri district in Andhra Pradesh

919. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY; Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleaed to state:

(a) what are the plans to improve postal servies in West Godaveri dis trict Andhra Pradesh during in 1994 95;

(b) whether any new post offices are likely to be opened in West Go. daveri during this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that many interior areas in West Godaveri are not properly served by postal depart ment; and

(d) if so the steps proposed to be taken to improve postal servies in the district of West Godaver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (to) Improvement of the postal services is an ongoing process. Efforts are constantly made to maintain efficiency in the services in the area. 754 post offices are already functioning in various parts of West Godaveri district. Targets for opening of Post